



# Message of the Week

*October 9-15, 2002*

*Presented by Rep. Mike Pence (R-IN)*

**“Though war may be avoidable, Congress must give the President the authority he needs to eliminate the Iraqi threat.”**

- The Government of Iraq presents a grave threat to our homeland and to international peace.
- Saddam Hussein has proven his proclivity for actively supporting efforts to attack the United States to exact revenge for his loss in the Gulf War.
- Saddam must be stopped before he develops nuclear capability. Waiting for mass killing is not an option. The Iraqi danger grows worse with time.
- Just as no one wants to wait for the sniper in the DC area to strike again before he is apprehended, no one should want to wait for a homicidal dictator to strike again before he is apprehended.
- Iraq is the chief state sponsor of international terrorism on the planet. By its past and present actions, by its technological capabilities, by the merciless nature of its regime, Iraq is unique.
- America should seek allies in this effort but should not be deterred from acting alone. If the UN is unwilling to enforce its own resolutions and deal with threats to global security, the United States must act with or without allies to eliminate the Iraqi threat.
- War with Iraq may be avoidable, however. As President Bush said on October 7<sup>th</sup>, if the Iraqi regime reveals and destroys all existing weapons of mass destruction, war may be avoidable. If Saddam allows witnesses to his illegal activities to be interviewed outside the country with their families safely by their sides, war may be avoidable. If Saddam grants UN inspectors access to any site, at any time, without pre-clearance, without delay, without exceptions, war may be avoidable. If the Iraqi regime ends its support for terrorism, war may be avoidable. If the regime ceases the persecution of its civilian population, war may be avoidable. If Iraq stops all illegal trade outside the Oil For Food program, war may be avoidable. And if Saddam releases or accounts for all Gulf War personnel, war may be avoidable.
- Though Americans instinctively want peace, there can be no peace if our security depends on the will of a ruthless and aggressive dictator. No one should be willing to stake one American life on trusting Saddam Hussein. Therefore we must give the President the authority he needs to go to war with Iraq.